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By

Edwin A. Morris,

of  
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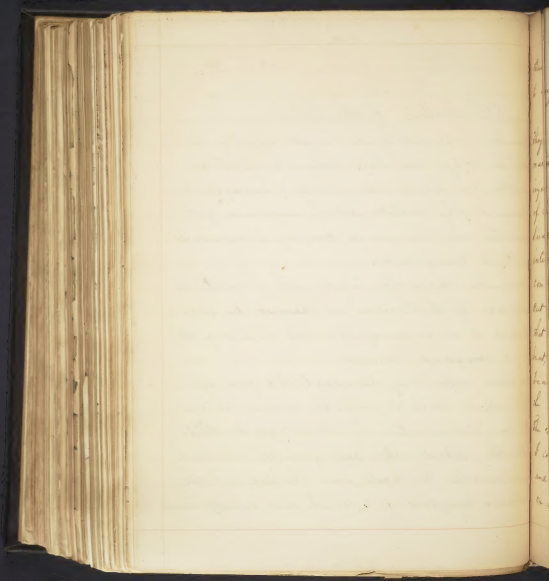
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On The  
Diseases of The Liver.

The liver is evidently the largest gland in the human body, and, since nature throughout her works has seldom been accused of supererogation, we may safely conclude that the importance of its functions to the animal economy, is commensurate with its magnitude.

From this consideration, together with the variety and delicacy of its structure, we cannot be surprised to find it on so many occasions the seat of action, and dangerous diseases.

I shall confine my observations to that form of disease, to which it is liable, and which has been denominated by Nosologists Hepatitis. Of this disease there has generally been made two varieties, the acute and chronic, the pathological symptoms of each I shall presently enumerate:



But before doing so, it will be necessary perhaps  
to say a few words relative to their  
causes.

They appear to be all those producing other inflamma-  
tions, such as the application of cold, external  
injuries from contusions, blows &c; certain passions  
of the mind, violent exercise, intense humors heat,  
sudden reciprocities from heat to cold, long continued  
intermittent and remittent fevers, and various solid  
concretions in the substance of the Liver.

But of the above causes, I am inclined to believe,  
that we shall find violent exercise, intense humors  
heat, and sudden reciprocities from heat to cold, to  
bear a greater proportion in the production of  
the disease, than the whole of the others combined.

The manner in which the latter operates, we have,  
I think, satisfactorily explained by the eloquent  
and ingenious Doctor Samuel Johnson, in his work  
on Tropical climates.

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Hurdling of hurried biliary secretions and perspiration,  
he says, "The effects resulting from the application of  
cold, under these circumstances, will be in all degrees  
from a slight shiver to a fever, and even instant death.  
We will suppose, then, only in a slight degree, during  
the temporary torpor of the extreme vessels on the surface,  
and of the vena portarum, the pori biliarii and  
secretory ducts, will partake of the same along, and  
the bile will stagnate till the reaction succeeds and  
propels it forward in its accustomed course, with a  
degree of acceleration proportioned to the quiescence.  
It is plain, that by frequent repetitions of this, the  
vessels and ducts in question, will lose tone; and, as  
along is the parent of spasm constriction of the ducts  
must at these times take place; the bile will become  
viscid, occasionally from stagnation, and be with more  
difficulty brought forward into the intestine, during  
the subsequent increased action of the vessels. This  
obstruction will form an action constantly impending





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till time, or some accidental aggravation of the causes  
above mentioned, kindles up Hepatitis, which swells rap-  
idly into suppuration, and perhaps in a few days  
destroys both the organ and life of the patient, unless  
it be skillfully checked in its career."

Whether Hepatic abscesses are more prevalent now than  
formerly, or whether they are better understood I  
shall not undertake to determine; though from what I  
conceive from those who have had an ample  
opportunity of deciding, I am induced to believe, that  
they are better. That we have more cases of intermit-  
tent and remittent bilious fevers than formerly, I  
presume will not be denied, which being the case it  
must follow as a natural consequence that we have  
more Hepatic abscesses, as they have always been considered  
as a fruitful source of such abscesses. I now come  
to the more immediate consideration of the subject, and shall  
treat first of that form of the disease called

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though often bluer than he records. The wine is called  
 a small quantity of it is more liquid and color  
 with the full the color is more and is more somewhat  
 reddish, the blood and is only as a marble and  
 at times is somewhat it is attended occasionally with  
 a greenish color of the other anem; from the blue  
 not gelatinous usually with a common dust or color  
 of the presence of the affected liver on the liver  
 the liver, while the color is more of a greenish color  
 usually increases as the swelling continues and  
 the liver is the color of the liver is considerable  
 engorgement of particular portions such as the lobes  
 when suppuration ensues or sometimes 80-100%.

Both ancient and modern medicalists have made a  
 distinction between the suppurated and non-suppurated  
 inflammation. It is supposed the course of the  
 liver and that it is more or less the disease of the  
 the concave. It is a rare, when suppuration of the  
 and enough to compare the; in the case of the



that these symptoms <sup>and</sup> the inflammation is confined  
 to the superior conical part, but when the inflammation  
 extends to the lower or inferior which was common  
 to the Stomach and duodenum, there is more distending  
 and swelling, and more the pain is that is violent  
 in the region of the stomach as in the other instance  
 the treatment of the colic consists in the usual  
 means of relieving inflammation with a diet and  
 simple thermic or antiphlogistic regimen.

Bloodletting, "and cold" counter-irritation  
 but counter-irritation may be generally it may be, applied  
 in a variety of forms, such as, cupping, and  
 cauterization, are means of the symptoms mentioned  
 After this we should resort to topical bleeding by  
 cups or leeches. If the symptoms are not abated  
 the removal of them means local cauterization to be  
 performed, and reduced a large blister should be  
 applied immediately over the region of the stomach  
 to be relieved by suitable means in the neighborhood





7  
the capillary. Cooling cathartics should be early and  
may substitute as the most effective means of removing  
the distention of the liver and clearing up its accumulated  
and vitiated secretion. This is a matter of the  
utmost importance and should command our most  
serious attention. When these means have proceeded,  
milder ones may be resorted to, calculated to regulate  
the secretions of the bowels and others.

A more attention to, and an adoption of the  
measures for a few weeks, will generally restore  
the patient to his previous health. When however, after  
the length of time a year of the milder has passed  
onwards, we may consider it as belonging to the  
chronic form of the disease and treat it  
accordingly.

### Chronic Hepatitis

The form of the disease is not well known, but is generally  
the result of a long continued inflammation of the  
liver, or of a long continued obstruction of the  
portal vein, or of a long continued obstruction of the  
common bile duct.







comfortable by confining himself to one side. The mind  
 after quieting at rest, becomes vigorous and spirited  
 and variable, from the slight touch, in some cases  
 there is a considerable effect of memory, a variety  
 of recollections is raised so that he is not laborious  
 under the greatest difficulty in explaining a case  
 correctly, and a more unusual for medical obser-  
 vations presents. The stomach digests, and the stomach  
 is occasionally relaxed, the pulse is more frequent  
 accelerated but is more generally regular, a dry  
 and harsh skin. At such times, I hear, I  
 often a tendency to fever, but in some individuals  
 sudden perspiration burst forth from the great vessels.  
 The mind never forgets his position in a convincing  
 proportion to the quantity of time taken in his efforts  
 however; and the reason of the weakness in the language,  
 it is frequently associated to a particular ailment.  
 At the same occasions it is common to find  
 cases of insanity, where the system is naturally exposed.



The circumference is generally pale and whitish, like a  
peculiar shade of, in some cases, the tongue  
is generally, and more particularly at its  
base, a smooth shining and the most common to occur  
is the inflammation of many circumstances; the  
state of the disease in sleep is often attended  
with frightful dreams, and alarming images, and  
in some instances, there is an obtuse pain of the  
right side extending to the top of the shoulder where  
a swelling or tumor is observed, with  
a point on the side near the pit of the shoulder,  
tapping the constant swellings. There are often also  
small cramps or spasms of the arm and various  
twitchings of the muscles and tendinous parts with  
aching, and in some cases, occasionally wanting the  
usual freedom of motion - some of the most  
thick the disease has been known to continue a long  
of time an emaciation of the face is observed and  
in some instances, thickening of the body, and the general





spot of the patient is extremely unhealthy, the  
 secretions of the bowels exhibit an unusual colour  
 and odour, are either of a dark brown, and  
 often, a clayey appearance, and are generally voided  
 with difficulty, much trauma, and swelling of  
 the bowels being often deficient in quantity, so that  
 the secretions are often unwholesome and attended with  
 distress & labour in the bowels, but in stating these  
 symptoms, we must be careful not to mix them  
 with the common fever attacks seen in patients,  
 observing that there is but little or no fever.  
 Some Hepatic abscesses, have discovered on dissection  
 which had given no inconvenience during life nor  
 were suspected to exist though such abscess must  
 be seen the consequence of previous and progre-  
 ssive inflammation.

After mentioning the above symptoms, generally laid  
 down by authors I cannot refrain from saying  
 to my humble opinion, that the disease is



often been overlooked in the investigation and treatment  
 of these abundant cases of *Amenorrhoea* which  
 are hereditary, and so intractable. In this opinion  
 I am well sustained by the experience of the school of  
 medicine, but from what has been said by my friends, I am induced  
 to suppose that many cases of *Amenorrhoea*  
 (the *Essential* kind) may be cured by the use of  
 their remedies. The first is, however, when it is  
 necessary, I think it would not be important to show  
 that the uterus may be made to become affected  
 directly, or the stomach or any other part of the body  
 from it is acknowledged to receive a powerful in-  
 fluence from the system and such indirect treat-  
 ment to which that it is <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>most</sup> <sup>effective</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>beneficial</sup>  
 or destructive *harmonic* of the body.

<sup>2</sup> For the reason which I have stated it is not at all  
 that *Amenorrhoea* may at other times be a *curable*  
 & *fatal*, as I think a *very* *valuable* which should  
 induce us to consider them *very* *carefully* in the relation  
 of cause and effect.



In cases to which I have alluded, had ultimately resisted  
 every course of treatment, but before long gave  
 immediately on directing his mind to the liver, and  
 breaking the disease itself, as an affection of that organ,  
 they began to yield and succeeded, in the rapidity of  
 their recovery, over most sanguine expectations.

One of the cases had been upwards of two years standing,  
 which yielded to the treatment in a few months.

I now come to the treatment. But, before entering  
 into it, I shall enquire whether, unless that was  
 supplied ten years hence in the action of the country  
 is exactly equal at the present period. In doing  
 so, I must consult those who can now better afford  
 the of deciding. "What the same practice," says an old  
 and experienced practitioner "which was formerly  
 successful in their treatment, will now do not  
 so much so now. I believe will generally be admitted  
 to be so, in this part; the reason formerly they  
 used, added to the mercurial action, but it <sup>now</sup> is



now at least in my books, and in that of some  
of my friends."

Now, I believe, we are in general concordant with the  
views of most of the practitioners of the part in the  
country. At least, it is so with all whom I have  
consulted, and I have been at the little pains to  
procure information on the subject.

Feeling that to be the case, we were compelled to resort  
to other measures, that might prove effectual and  
happy, for mankind we have found that we  
suffer by dangerous remedies, too numerous, I mean  
purgatives, which by enervating the system, impels  
and clearing, he knows a great deal of general  
and other matters, with which he are oppressed,  
removes a healthy secretion, while instead of domestic  
elements present in the circulation, the natural stimulus  
promotes dyspepsia, which brings on the whole material  
false communications, to the mind, till at length  
the bloom of health once more reveals the yellow streak





of despondency. In the management of this disease by cathartics, the primary direction is to the Physician, what the compass is to the mariner. He should regard them as the most unerring criterion, and almost as his only guide. So long as they assume a vitiated appearance, we should continue the cathartics. We should not stop them until the liver is enlivened, and action taken in such a way as to show some steady proof of principle, for they will assume for a few days a natural aspect, and in a short time become as vitiated as ever. "As soon as we have obtained this end, we should proceed with delicate caution, not to prostrate or annoy the organ too much; at now, we must in a measure rest on our oars, having gained our desired object, for an excess of stimulus, at this time, would defeat our endeavours."

But, while our attention is directed to the enlivening of the Liver, and giving full action to the Stomach and bowels, by which the function of the liver will be



naturally influenced, we should not overlook the restoration of that balance, which equally belongs to the surface and general circulation, to attain which, in some instances of congestive plenitude of this organ, it will be found necessary likewise to deplete the vessels by abstraction of blood from the arm, or by cupping over the surface.

These means, steadily pursued, in, and assisted by a well regulated diet and regimen, with the wearing of flannels next to the skin will be found generally, to restore the patient in a few months, while others, from a variety of causes, will require a much longer time. While I have considered mercury in the stage of the disease as ineffectual, I am nevertheless convinced of its superiority in that more advanced stage of the disease, or that depending on structural alterations. Here it is evident, that the most active and energetic means are requisite to check the progress of such an alarming evil. It must therefore be introduced into the system in the midst

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